

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00525 201529Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 /062 W

-----201532Z 116091 /43

P R 201452Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1359

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, ECON

SUBJECT: SABENA MAY REPLACE PAN AM

REF: KINSHASA 10614

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR REPORTED REFTEL PRESIDENT MOBUTU MADE CRITICAL REFERENCE TO TAP AGREEMENT WITH PANAM, INDICATING IT WAS BEING REVIEWED TO SEE WHETHER GOZ WAS GETTING ITS MONEY'S WORTH. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP VAGUE REPORTS THAT GOZ MIGHT NOT RENEW THE AGREEMENT, WHICH DUE TO EXPIRE THIS APRIL. WE PASSED ON BOTH MOBUTU'S COMMENTS AND RUMORS WE HAVE PICKED UP TO PANAM'S JOE GATT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK, WHERE WE UNDERSTAND HE IS NOW DISCUSSING CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

2. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER REPORT FROM A HIGHLY-RELIABLE SOURCE THAT A 15-MAN SABENA TEAM IS PRESENTLY IN KINSHASA NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT WHEREBY SABENA WOULD REPLACE PANAM. WIFE OF SABENA TEAM CHIEF REPORTEDLY STATED THAT CONTRACT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON.

3. COMMENT: IF LATEST REPORT IS INDEED TRUE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO STATE WHETHER CHANGE IS BEING MADE BECAUSE OF (A) COMMERCIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 00525 201529Z

CONSIDERATIONS, (B) BROAD POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, (C) A POSSIBLE CLASH OF PERSONALITIES, (D) OR COMBINATION THEREOF. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT GATT HAS MADE A NUMBER OF ENEMIES AMONG INFLUENTIAL ZAIRIANS IN HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE AIR ZAIRE A PROFITABLE OPERATION. IRONICALLY, THESE EFFORTS APPEAR TO BE SUCCEEDING. AIR ZAIRE REPORTS A PROFIT FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS FOR WHICH OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN AUDITED. FINALLY, WE DO NOT HAVE A GOOD

UNDERSTANDING AS TO JUST HOW EAGER PANAM, AS OPPOSED TO JOE GATT, IS TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION. AT VARIOUS TIMES, PANAM OFFICIALS HAVE CLAIMED TO US THAT THE TAP CONTRACT IS NOT PARTICULARLY PROFITABLE. OF COURSE, THE CONTRACT DOES GIVE PANAM SOME LEVERAGE. IT IS HARDLY A COINCIDENCE THAT PANAM IS THE ONLY FOREIGN CARRIER THAT HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO CONVERT AND REMIT A PORTION OF ITS EXCESS ZAIRIAN TICKET SALES.

4. SINCE GATT NOW OUT OF TOWN, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONVEY TO HIM OR OTHERS AT PANAM IN NEW YORK SUBSTANCE OF INFORMATION REPORTED PARA 2 ABOVE.

CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KINSHA00525  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770021-0946  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KINSHASA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770133/aaaabday.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 0aef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 KINSHASA 10614  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3549873  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SABENA MAY REPLACE PAN AM  
**TAGS:** EAIR, ECON, CG, PANAM, AIR ZAIRE, SABENA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0aef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009